

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 ONY-00 /028 W
-----043299 161455Z /41
R 161302Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2075

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 0809

FOR EUR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS3
TAGS: NL
SUBJECT: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE NETHERLANDS

REF: (A) 77 STATE 291277
(B) 77 STATE 296053, (C) THE HAGUE 250

1. U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE NETHERLANDS REFLECT THE ABSENCE OF SERIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES AND THE FACT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHARE AND PURSUE BROADLY SIMILAR OBJECTIVES, LARGELY THROUGH A VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RANGING FROM THE UN TO NATO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES HERE AND PLACE THE PRIME FOCUS OF THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, WHETHER IN SECURITY, POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC AREAS. THIS MEANS THAT TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT THE EMBASSY ROLE IS THAT OF REENFORCEMENT OF DUTCH POSITIONS AND POLICIES, FOLLOW-UP AND CONTINUING LIAISON ON A WIDE RANGE OF ONGOING INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. FOR EXAMPLE, EMBASSY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTIVES RELATED TO NATO ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY. SIMILARLY ON ECONOMIC ISSUES WE ARE MAINLY CONCERNED WITH EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH DUTCH TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY OF POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

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IN SUCH BODIES AS OECD AND UN, PARTICULARLY ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, THUS COORDINATING TACTICS AND KEEPING DUTCH OFFICIALS WELL INFORMED ON US POLICY AS IT DEVELOPS IN RELEVANT AREAS WILL REMAIN IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR OPERATIONS HERE.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE EMPHASIS OF OUR ACTIVITIES

WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN THE AREA OF SECURITY ARISING FROM ADJUSTMENTS OF PLANNING WITHIN NATO, ESPECIALLY NUCLEAR ISSUES, AND ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE ORDER DEALT WITH AT THE LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT, AS WELL AS THOSE BROADER ISSUES INVOLVED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DEBT RELIEF, THE COMMON FUND PROPOSAL AND COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. DSPITE THE IDENTITY OF DUTCH AND US VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WE WILL NEED TO WATCH CLOSELY FOR ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS IN DUTCH PUBLIC OPINION THAT FIX UNREASONABLY ON SOME OF THE SORE SPOTS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. THIS RZQUIRES US BOTH TO KEEP DUTCH OPINION MAKERS INFORMED AND ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH US AND TO PURSUE CULTURAL PROGRAMS OF OUR OWN DESIGNED TO IMPROVE DUTCH UNDERSTANDING OF US. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SERIOUS LOCAL OBSTACLES TO OUR ACTIVITIES, AND INDEED IN SOME RE-SPECTS BELIEVE THE NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT MAY BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO SOME OF OUR CONCERNS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN DEFENSE.

3. FOR THE PRESENT WE BELIEVE WE ARE PURSUING WITH REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL RESULTS THE VARIOUS OBJECTIVES WE HAVE SET OUT FOR OURSELVES. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WILL DETERMINE SPECIFIC AREAS ON WHICH WE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME NEED TO PLACE SPECIAL PRIORITY OR TO
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WHICH TO GIVE A DIFFERENT ORDER OF ATTENTION.

4. IN PURSUING OUR OBJECTIVES THE CORE TASK WILL BE TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE CONTACT WITH THE NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT THA CAME INTO OFFICE IN DECEMBER 1977. NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER, FINANCE MINISTER AND MINISTERHOF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WILL BE SPECIAL TARGETS. WE WILL ALSO WISH TO EXPAND AND DEVELOP CONTACTS IN OTHER QUARTERS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ARE NEW AND, WHILE THEY ARE NOT YET IN POSITIOMS OF RESPONSIBILITY, SOME, INCLUDING PROMINENT OPPOSITION MADE UP OF MINISTERS FROM THE FORMER GOVERNMENT, WILL CONTINUE TO

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /028 W
-----043408 161456Z /42

R 161302Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2076

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 0809

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BE HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL. OUR ABILITY TO ENSURE UNDER-
STANDING OF US POSITIONS AND GAIN DUTCH SUPPORT
FOR THEM WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON CONTINUING CONTACTS
WITH KEY OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS AND WITH SUCH
OPINION MAKERS AS MEDIA, UNIVERSITIES AND DUTCH THINK
TANKS. IN THIS CONNECTION A STRONG AND BROADLY
DIRECTED BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WILL REMAIN ESSENTIAL.

5. ALL OF OUR CONTACTS MUST BE CULTIVATED IN A WAY
TO REASSURE THE DUTCH THAT WE LOOK TO THEM TO PLAY
A ROLE IN POLICY DISCUSSIONS AFFECTING THEIR INTERESTS
AND TO DEMONSTRATE FOR OUR PART THAT WE ATTACH
IMPORTANCE TO MAKING CERTAIN THAT DUTCH VIEWS ARE
FACTORED IN US DECISION-MAKING. IT IS ESSENTIAL
TO DO ALL WE CAN BOTH TO INVOLVE THE DUTCH DIRECTLY
IN ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES AND, WHEN THIS IS NOT
POSSIBLE, AT LEAST TO CONVEY TO THEM THE FEELING THAT
THEY HAVE NOT BEEN IGNORED. IN THE LONG RUN OUR
SUCCESS IN THESE TACTICS WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING
ON OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN STRONG DUTCH SUPPORT WHERE
AND WHEN WE NEED IT. THE DUTCH ARE HUNGRY FOR INFOR-
MATION ON VIRTUALLY EVERY INTERNATIONAL ISSUE. TO
THE EXTENT THE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE BACKUP INFORMATION,
AS IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO, ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OB-
JECTIVES HERE WILL BE ADVANCED. SIMILARLY, OCCASIONAL
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HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS CAN BE HIGHLY USEFUL IN BUTTRESSING
EMBASSY EFFORTS AND ASSUAGING DUTCH SENSITIVITIES
ABOUT NOT BEING ON THE MAIN CIRCUIT.

6. IN THE MEDIUM TERM WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING POINTS,
ALL SUBSUMED WITHIN OUR BROADER OBJECTIVES, WARRANT
SPECIAL ATTENTION:

A. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAMS GIVING THE DUTCH, PREFERABLY IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER EUROPEAN NATO MEMBERS, OPPORTUNITIES TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND OTHER PRODUCTS IN NORTH AMERICA AS AN OFFSET AGAINST EQUIPMENT BOUGHT IN THE US.

B. STUDY IN THE NGP AND THE HIGH LEVEL TNF GROUP OF POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS THE DUTCH ARMED FORCES COULD MAKE IN THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR FIELD WHICH CAN SERVE AS GUIDANCE FOR GON DECISION MAKING.

C. CULTIVATION OF CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH DUTCH, WHO HAVE BEEN OUR STAUNCHEST SUPPORTERS IN EUROPE, ON US POLICIES AND TACTICS IN THE FIELD OF NON-PROLIFERATION.

D. USE OF TRADITIONAL DUTCH INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES BY BRINGING DUTCH INTO US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE IMPROVED RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH UN PROGRAMS.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN FULLY ACHIEVE OUR COMMERCIAL OBJECTIVES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND FURTHER EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TRADE AND INVESTMENT, BUT OUR ABILITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE CCP WILL DEPEND DE- CISIVELY UPON THE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF AT LEAST CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENT PERSONNEL RESOURCES.

8. IN OUR COMMENT ON DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WE RECOMMENDED RESTORATION OF OBJECTIVE DEALING WITH COORDINATION OF ILLICIT NARCOTIC CONTROL. SO LONG AS THE NETHERLANDS REMAINS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT TRAFFICKING CENTERS, WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS BOTH FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DUTCH ENFORCEMENT ACTION AND FOR INCREASED DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE AVAILABILITY OF NARCOTIC DRUGS.

9. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW, BUT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. OUR CONSULAR PRESENCE IN ROTTERDAM AND AMSTERDAM, HOWEVER, REMAINS IMPORTANT TO THE DUTCH AS AN EARNEST OF CONTINUED AMERICAN INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY AND TO AMERICAN AND DUTCH BUSINESS IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENSIVE MUTUAL COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES. BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA00809
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-0980
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780244/aaaablpn.tel
Line Count: 220
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dd6747d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 291277, 77 STATE 296053, 78 THE HAGUE 250
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3568621
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE NETHERLANDS
TAGS: PDIP, AMGT, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd6747d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014